



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Environmental Affairs

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900

Boston, MA 02114-2119

Mitt Romney
GOVERNOR

Kerry Healey
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Stephen R. Pritchard
SECRETARY

Tel: (617) 626-1000
Fax: (617) 626-1181
<http://www.mass.gov/envir>

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CONTACT:

Vanessa Gulati
617-626-1119

**GOVERNOR'S BUDGET PROVIDES GOOD NEWS
FOR STATE ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES**

Secretary of the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA), Stephen R. Pritchard is pleased to announce that EOEA would see targeted funding increases in key areas under the fiscal year 2007 budget proposed today by Governor Romney.

Several areas of environmental concern would receive additional funding under Romney's FY '07 budget plan; including:

- \$1,500,000 for DCR to maintain newly acquired Central Artery/Tunnel Parks
- \$200,000 for the Department of Agricultural Resources' (DAR) Integrated Pest Management providing alternatives to harmful pesticides.
- \$1,500,000 in funding for DCR's storm water management efforts
- \$512,000 for the Office of Dam Safety at DCR to fully implement the comprehensive regulatory reform program
- \$1,035,000 for the preservation and maintenance of DCR's 80 beaches
- \$750,000 for maintenance of DCR's 38 community pool facilities
- \$790,000 for DCR to expedite Resource Management Planning that will lead to sounder management of state parks, beaches and reservations.
- \$1,500,000 for DCR to replace vehicles and equipment
- \$95,000 for a computerized work order system allowing DCR to exercise more control in their maintenance and management of parks, reservations and other facilities
- \$288,000 for Environmental Law Enforcement spending on cruiser repairs and uniform replacements and,

- \$500,000 for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to proactively identify and assess hazardous waste sites targeted for cleanup

In addition to new funding, the Governor has called for legislative authority for DCR to enter into long term leases for the remaining skating rinks not yet part of this highly successful model of stewardship. The savings realized through long term leases are then redistribute to provide resources in other areas of the State park system.

“This represents a strategic investment in critically important areas of our environmental programs,” said Pritchard. Pritchard described the Governor’s decision process as being “result oriented” and focused on expenditures that will have a positive, clear, and measurable impact on the environmental and natural resources of the Commonwealth. “I am encouraged by the Governor’s support and I hope the Legislature meets the Governor’s request.”

Governor Romney released his FY07 Budget today at 11:00 A.M. The House of Representatives will next review his recommendations before sending their budget to the Senate.

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